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MEMORANDUM

September 2011

TO: Montana School Administrators
FROM: Linda Vrooman Peterson, Administrator
SUBJECT: Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements

The purpose of this letter is to provide information about the federal highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirements for new-to-the-profession and experienced elementary and secondary teachers teaching core academic subject classes, and what these requirements mean to a school administrator.

To meet the federal HQT requirements, every teacher must be licensed, endorsed and appropriately assigned and must have demonstrated content knowledge prior to teaching core academic subject classes. The **core academic subjects**, as defined by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, include: English, reading, mathematics, science (biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, and physical science), civics and government, economics, history, geography, world languages, visual arts, and elementary curriculum. Teachers with endorsements in other subject areas (e.g., music, library media, health enhancement, technology education, family and consumer sciences) are not required to pass a subject area test to teach non-core academic subject classes. Every teacher teaching in Montana accredited schools must be licensed and subject area endorsed.

The ESEA HQT requirements apply to all teachers assigned to teach core academic subject classes.

- K-8 Elementary teachers new-to-the profession must pass the Praxis II (0014) Elementary Content Knowledge Test prior to being assigned to teach the elementary curriculum. (Teacher candidates recommended for licensure from a Montana accredited educator preparation program will have completed this requirement prior to graduation.)
- K-8 Elementary teachers who hold a Class 5 Alternative License must pass the Praxis II (0014) Elementary Content Knowledge test prior to teaching the elementary curriculum.
- Elementary and secondary teachers with a minor in a core academic subject must pass the applicable Praxis II subject knowledge test prior to teaching a core academic subject class.
- Experienced K-8 elementary and secondary teachers, K-12 special education teachers, and Title I teachers teaching core academic subject classes must meet HOUSSE requirements or pass the appropriate Praxis II subject area test prior to teaching a core academic subject class.
- Teachers with a secondary major, course work equivalent to a major, or an advanced degree in a core academic subject meet the federal requirements and are not required, for HQT purposes, to pass a subject area test.
- For registration information refer to the Praxis Series Bulletin. The link to the Praxis Series is located on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Web site at www.ets.org/praxis. Once at the Praxis Series home page, follow these steps: 1) Go to the heading, "For Test Takers" click "About the Test"; 2) Click Praxis II: Subject Tests; and 3) Click the tab labeled "Get Bulletin."

Attached are the Montana passing scores used only for HQT purposes. For more information refer to the Highly Qualified Teacher link on the Office of Public Instruction Web site: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Accred/HQT.html>. For comments or questions contact me by telephone, (406) 444-5726 or by e-mail, lypeterson@mt.gov.

Passing Scores for Praxis II Subject Area Tests
Montana Passing Scores Used Only for Highly Qualified Teacher Status
September 2011

Praxis II Subject Area Test	Test Number	MT Passing Scores for HQT Effective January 2010
Elementary Content Knowledge	0014 Paper-delivered test 5014 Computer-delivered test	154 (See Frequently Asked Questions)
English Language, Literature, Compositions	0041	166
Mathematics	0061	128
Biology	0235	151
Chemistry	0245	148
Physics	0265	135
Physical Science	0481	152
Earth Science	0571	151
Economics	0910	500
Geography	0921	155
Government/Political Science	0930	620
World/Us History	0941	146
Art	0134	158
Multi-State Standard Setting Studies	Test Number	MT Passing Scores for HQT Effective Fall 2010
Teaching Reading	0204 (paper) 5204 (computer)	159
World Languages		
French	5174 (computer only)	162
German	5183 (computer only)	163
Spanish	5195 (computer only)	168
Registration information is located on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Web site at www.ets.org/praxis . OPI Contact: Linda Vrooman Peterson, (406) 444-5726, or, lvpeterson@mt.gov		